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Advocate of Peace

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THE SECOND PAN AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

THE Second Pan American Scientific Congress to which we have been pleased to refer from time to time, is at this writing in session in the city of Washington. The importance of this Congress lies primarily in its influence upon the developing understanding between our American Republics. THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE agrees with Señor Don Ignacio Calderon, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, who, speaking before the opening session of the Congress, said: "Pan Americanism is a noble doctrine, it does not mean exclusion or race distinctions like pan-germanism or pan-slavism, but implies the great federation of the American Republics, to work for the uplifting of mankind, under the enobling principles of right and freedom. It means the sovereignty of the people based on the equality of men; it means the open door into our territories for all persons able and willing to work for the common progress." As pointed out by Secretary Lansing, the American Republics constitute "a group which is united by common ideals and common aspirations."

Because of this Congress, and because of the present hopeful emphasis upon the doctrine of Pan Americanism, we have been pleased to make of this journal for this the first month of the new year a "Pan American number."

THE CALL TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

THIS IS Pan Americanism. It has none of the spirit of empire in it. It is the embodiment, the effectual embodiment, of the spirit of law and independence and liberty and mutual service." These are the words of President Wilson, taken from his address at the joint session of the two houses of Congress, December 7. They are hopeful and constructive words. As he said: "The states of America are not hostile rivals, but co-operating friends." It is becoming clearer and clearer that the twenty-one American republics have a decided community of interests—political, economical, and moral. The President is justified in seeing in these facts a "new significance."

Whatever our views relative to the President's Mexican policy, two facts are very apparent: There is no war between any of the American states; and our sister republic to the south, "upon a footing of genuine equality and unquestioned independence," are less suspicious of the United States than ever before. There is no reason

for doubting the sincerity of the President's words that "We still mean always to make a common cause of international independence and of political liberty in America."

It is evident that the President speaks from the heart when he says: "No one who really comprehends the spirit of the great people for whom we are appointed to speak can fail to perceive that their passion is for peace, their genius best displayed in the practice of the arts of peace. Great democracies are not belligerent. They do not seek or desire war. Their thought is of individual liberty and of the free labor that supports life, and the uncensored thought that quickens it. Conquest and dominion are not in our reckoning or agreeable to our principles." It is true that we "have set America aside as a whole for the uses of independent nations and political freemen."

Repeating from his Manhattan Club address, the President informs us again that there is no immediate or particular danger to this country from abroad; and he adds the thought that "the gravest threats against our national peace and safety have been uttered within our own borders." The message closes with these words:

"For what we are seeking now, what in my mind is the single thought of this message, is national efficiency and security. We serve a great nation. We should serve it in the spirit of its peculiar genius. It is the genius of common men for self-government. Industry, justice, liberty, and peace. We should see to it that it lacks no instrument, no facility or vigor of law, to make it sufficient to play its part with energy, safety, and assured success. In this we are no partisans, but heralds and prophets of a new age."

Fortunately there is nothing in this language so provincial and parochial as "America for Americans," the President seeming to have arisen somewhat above a former doctrine of his that all America is for Americans, and Americans only. The fact is that true American interests can be subserved only in the light of English, German, Turkish, Chinese interests. True business can be in no sense a game of cutthroats. In refashioning our political conceptions we cannot leave out of account the welfare of other peoples. Self-interest alone requires that we shape our national behavior in harmony with the welfare of other, even if competing states. Pan Americanism is one of the most hopeful, concrete agencies for the promotion of the human weal. But Pan Humanity, including Pan Americanism, is or should be the ideal of modern statesmanship. Collectivism, co-operation of all commonwealths for the common weal, that is the call to the Western Hemisphere.